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ABSTRACT

The report describes a training project for handicapped consumer leasers which was conceived and sponsored by the Houston Coalition for Barrier Free Living (CBFL), a Houston-based disabled rights organization. Section I includes the original prospectus or grant proprosal submitted to the funding agents by CBFL, a discussion of the conference planning process, and a review of pre-conference arrangements. Section II focuses on the conference itself with information on the conference agenda, a list of meeting participants, and selected excerpts from the proceedings. Section III deals with post conference evaluation and feedback (including data analysis from evaluation questionnaires, information relating to the budget, and reprints of letters from conference attendees). (Author/SBH)

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CBFL CONFERENCE REPORT 1978

A Report on the Regional Leadership Training Conference and Organization Workshop held in Houston, Texas, on February 18 and 19, 1978.

by

Lex Frieden

David Sharp

Tim Fleck

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Lex Frieden

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

This project was sponsored by the Coalition for Barrier Free Living with funding provided by RT 4, RSA, U.S. DHEW.

EC113489

Published 1978 by
Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research
1333 Moursund
Houston, Texas 77030

PREFACE

Handicapped individuals are becoming more and more involved in the mainstream of everyday life. As a result of enlightened attitudes, legislative rights mandates, and modern barrier-free building standards, disabled people have more opportunities to be heard. Consumer involvement is now required by Chapter XXV of the regulations relating to vocational rehabilitation. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act places great emphasis on consumer involvement. Handicapped individuals are being hired to fill decision making positions and to work as consultants throughout the field of rehabilitation. Advisory committees and task forces made of up handicapped people are suddenly in vogue. With all of these initiatives, handicapped people are beginning to seek and find new ways of meeting the demand for their representative and meaningful involvement. Consulting and advocacy organizations are being formed everywhere. The Coalition theme is predominate. Statewide coalitions of handicapped individuals have recently been formed in Texas, Oklahoma, California, and Massachusetts.

The following report is a narrative description of a training project for handicapped consumer leaders which was conceived and sponsored by the Houston Coalition for Barrier Free Living, a Houston-based disabled rights organization.

Funding for the project was arranged by the Regional Rehabilitation and Training Center at Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research and Baylor College of Medicine (RT 4). This report is designed to document the project itself, and to provide useful information for persons or groups who may wish to replicate it.

Although project planning began in early fall, 1977, and the final project report was not completed until late spring, 1978, most of the project effort was devoted to a two day Leadership Training Conference and Organization Workshop for handicapped individuals held in Houston on February 18 and 19, 1978 and attended by 61 handicapped leaders from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico. Perhaps the most significant result of this meeting was the formation of the Texas Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

Section I of this report includes the original prospectus or grant proposal submitted to the funding agents by CBFL, a discussion of the conference planning process and a description of pre-conference arrangements. Section II focuses on the Conference itself. The Conference agenda and list of meeting participants and selected excerpts from the Conference proceedings are included in this portion of the report. Section III deals with post conference evaluation and feedback. Data analysis from evaluation questionaires, information relating to the budget, and reprints of letters from Conference attendees may also be found

in this section.

The CBFL would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who participated in this project. Particular thanks should be given to CBFL members who volunteered and worked diligently on this project from beginning to end, to Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research and Baylor College of Medicine (RT 4) who paid the bills, and to the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities who generously provided information and technical assistance.

CBFL Will Stage Leadership Conference

BY Tim Fleck

The Coalition has been awarded a $10,000 U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare grant through Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research (RT4) to stage a leadership conference and workshop here this spring.

"The conference will bring together handicapped leaders from Texas and the four bordering states, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico," says Coalition board member Lex Frieden.

"Participants at the upcoming conference will exchange information about developments in their communities. They will compare tactics for achieving goals like accessible mass transit, barrier-free housing, and the enactment and enforcement of legislation guaranteeing disabled people the right to a complete education and equal employment."

"We hope the conference will lay the groundwork for statewide coalitions of disabled people in Texas and surrounding states," Frieden concludes.

The conference will be held Feb. 18 and 19th at the Intercontinental Holiday Inn. Approximately 40 persons will be at the gathering, including ten attendants.

Highlights of the conference will include speeches by nationally known disabled rights leaders. At least one conference session will be open to Coalition members who wish to attend.

FREEWHEELING

cbfl Coalition for Barrier Free Living

HOUSTON, TEXAS | Volume 2, Number 2 | DECEMBER, 1977

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

The Coalition for Barrier Free Living is a consumer-oriented, Houston based non-profit organization composed of handicapped people and their non-handicapped supporters. It has a dues paying membership of approximately 300 persons, among them educators, counselors, government officials, doctors, architects, and many other representatives of various professions. The Coalition has existed since 1975 and is dedicated to making the living environment in Houston more hospitable for disabled people. It has sought to acheive this goal through involvement with governmental and non-governmental groups in the fields of transportation, housing, architectural design, mass media, and education. Coalition policy is set by a board elected from the membership. The board meets monthly and the general membership meets every two months. The board members are very active in the functioning of the Coalition and are assisted in their efforts by two fulltime Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). The Coalition office is located at Easter Seals Headquarters, 3630 West Dallas. The office phone is 526-1651.

Following the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals in May, 1977, the CBFL decided that a statewide organization of disabled people was needed in Texas to maintain advocacy efforts for the disabled at the state level. In order to implement this idea, the Board of Directors of the CBFL

appointed a three member committee whose responsibility was to plan a statewide conference for organizing a coalition of disabled persons and able-bodied supporters in Texas. This committee approached the Regional Rehabilitation and Training Center in Houston (RT 4) and requested a grant for the needed funding.

This center, a joint project of Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) and Baylor College of Medicine, is one of 19 such centers in the country funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

In addition to maintaining consumer involvement within the Center itself, RT 4 supports consumer involvement outside in a number of ways. Staff persons, both disabled and non-disabled, are active in advisory and decision-making capacities in many organizations of and for handicapped individuals. RT 4 personnel participate regularly as speakers, presentors, and resource persons at meetings and conferences of handicapped individuals. Additionally, many consumer oriented special events are planned and sponsored by the Center. Because of this attitude toward maximum consumer involvement, the CBFL Conference proposal was received by RT 4 with great enthusiasm.

RT 4 staff suggested that the proposal be expanded so that the conference could include participants from the four other states in Federal Region IX. After some negotiation, the proposal was submitted for review by authorities at several levels. The following proposal was accepted and approved by RT 4 in October, 1977.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION WORKSHOP

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lex Frieden
Bob Geyer
Bob Kafka

Objective: to provide an opportunity for handicapped consumer leaders from across the region to meet, learn, and share information about their respective organizations with the goal of facilitating the organization of several statewide coalitions.

A two day meeting of forty selected individuals will be held in Houston during the fall, 1977. Participants will be primarily handicapped persons who have demonstrated leadership ability and who represent a variety of disability types and organizations throughout the region.

Planning for the conference will be done by a select committee of eight representatives from across the region. Primary program management and organization will be the responsibility of the Houston Coalition for Barrier Free Living.

Budget:

*Planning Committee Meeting

(a)transportation	$680.00
(b)attendants	170.00
(c)room and lunch	100.00
	$950.00

*Regional Conference (2 days & 2 nights)

(a)transportation (40 persons)	$3400.00
(b)attendants	1190.00

(c) rooms (27 @$31) (double occup.)	$1674.00
(d) meeting rooms	100.00
(e) supplemental ground transp.	250.00
(f) phone, supplies, copying, etc.	500.00
(g) secretarial asst.	600.00
(h) speaker/trainers (2 persons of national repute)	1000.00
TOTAL.....	$9664.00

+ indirect, etc.

LF/asm.
10/11/77

All project funds were held in a special account by RT 4 and disbursed by check upon receipt of validated bills or check requests from CBFL.

After securing funding, the CBFL Planning Committee set dates, produced a tentative agenda, created a regional planning committee, and secured a site suitable for the conference. They were assisted during this stage of the project and throughout the conference itself by two Volunteers in Service to America who were assigned to the CBFL. Sub-committees were appointed by this committee to organize and manage various items associated with the conference. The primary committees were registration, volunteers, and transportation. CBFL members worked on these committees and functioned as volunteers during the conference itself.

The CBFL Committee also initiated correspondence with the American Coaltion of Citizens with Disabilities in an effort to obtain technical assistance in planning the conference and organizing the state coalitions.

Room 817, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. • (202) 785-4265
Washington, D.C. 20036

American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities Inc.

6

October 16, 1977

Mr. Lex Frieden
967 Meadowvale
Houston, Texas 77042

Dear Lex:

Frank has informed me about the meeting you are planning this coming winter. I am excited to hear about it, and hope that I can be of assistance to you.

I have enclosed names and addresses of individual members and organizational members in the five states: Texas, Arkansas, Okla, New Mexico, and Louisiana. As you can see, our contacts in some of these states are minimal, and your meeting will be very important. I have also enclosed a preliminary booklet that is in the process of being developed. Take a look at it and you can attempt to utilize it, but I am aware of many errors and omissions in it. It will probably be completed later this year.

Please let me know if you need further names and addresses. We do have a mailing list on hand, and I would be more than happy to get them to you. Please allow a bit more time to receive these, however, as they are on individual index cards and will take a few days to assemble.

As you can see from the enclosed letter, I have also contacted Anna Fay, ACCD Coalition Development Chairperson, about your meeting and she should be in touch with you shortly.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Jan Jacobi
Assistant to the Director

ENCL.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee was made up of three members of the CBFL committee who had been appointed by the CBFL Board and one liason person representing each of the five states. These state representatives were selected by the CBFL Committee. They were originally identified by the ACCD Executive Office and by personal acquaintance either directly or indirectly with CBFL committee members. Each state liason person was known by reputation as a leader and handicapped activist in their own state. Mike Phillips was President of the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. Joe Register was Director of the Arkansas White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. Ralph Markward was President of the New Mexico Zia PVA Chapter. Sudie Robinson was Vice-President of Place International, an activist group in Louisiana. Pat Pound was Vice-President of an Austin-based group called MIGHT. Efforts were made to appoint a deaf person to the planning committee as liason person from one state. However, personal scheduling conflicts prevented this. There were two blind persons and six wheelchair users on this committee.

TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH
IN THE
TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER
1333 MOURSUND AVENUE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030

P. O. Box 20095
Houston, Texas 77025

Telephone
Area Code 713, 797-1440

November 28, 1977

Dear Conference Planning Committee Member:

Thank you for agreeing to participate with us in planning the forthcoming Regional Leadership Training Conference and Coalition Workshop. As you know, we have scheduled a committee meeting to be held on Saturday, December 10, 1977. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Airport Host Hotel. The hotel is easily accessible from either arrival terminal via the underground shuttle train in the lower level of the airport. Directions to the meeting room will be available at the hotel registration desk.

Lunch will be provided at the meeting. We plan to finish our business by 4:00 p.m. so that everyone can get home for supper.

Please make your own travel arrangements. We will reimburse you for coach class airfare.

I am enclosing the following materials for your review prior to the meeting:

1. a CBFL brochure and newsletter
2. a brief project description and preliminary conference agenda
3. a tentative planning committee meeting agenda
4. a list of planning committee members and affiliations.

Since one of our primary tasks at the December 10 meeting will be electing participants for the conference to be held February 18 & 19, 1978, it is important for you to survey consumer groups and individuals in your state and to make some preliminary judgements and recommendations. Please bring lists of groups with you to the meeting in addition to background materials which may support our final selections. Also, if you have access to written materials produced by or about consumer groups in your state, please bring them to the planning meeting for discussion.

We look forward to working with you and we sincerely appreciate your participation in this project.

Sincerely,

Lex Frieden

enclosures

LF/asm

December 10 - PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, Dec. 10

10:00-11:00 a.m. - description of project and tentative plans for conference

11:00-12:30 - finalize conference agenda

12:30-1:30 - lunch

1:30-4:00 - discuss participant selection criteria and make preliminary recommendations

LF/asm
11/77

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 10, 1977

The Regional Planning Committee met on December, 10, 1977 at the Airport Host Hotel in Houston from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The meeting agenda called for discussions related to three major areas: (1) logistical arrangements, (2) conference agenda, (3) participant selection. The Regional Planning Committee approved plans to hold the workshop on February 18-19, 1978 at the Houston Airport Holiday Inn. It was agreed that eight participants from each of the five states in the region would be selected and invited to attend the workshop. Additional participants could be invited as funds permit at the discretion of the Regional Planning Committee. CBFL would reimburse participants for round trip coach class air fare and would provide banquet tickets and sleeping rooms, double occupancy, for two nights. Accessible ground transportation to and from the airport, volunteer attendant assistance, and interpreters for the deaf would also be provided by CBFL as requested. Participants would be expected to pay for their own meals and any or all personal or incidental expenses (such as long distance telephone calls, transportation to and from their home airports, etc.). Each state would be allowed up to two personal care attendants as required. Expenses for these individuals would be handled in a manner consistent with the policy described above. Participants desiring to drive to and from the meeting would be reimbursed at a rate of 17¢ per mile, or at a rate equivalent to round trip coach class air fare from the same approximate location, whichever was less. It was pointed out that any means of conserving transportation funds such as sharing rides or attendants would increase

the possibility that additional participants could be invited to the workshop.

The following tentative conference agenda was developed and approved by the Regional Planning Committee. Invited participants would be mailed menus, ACCD Bylaws, and any other available training materials prior to the workshop. All written materials would be available either on cassette tape or in braille as requested. It was noted that all requests for special assistance at the conference or for adapted material should be made by individuals well in advance.

In addition to the eight representatives selected from each state, it was decided that eight alternates would also be selected and invited to attend as vacancies or additional funded slots became available. Participants would be expected to make their own travel arrangements and reservations.

It was agreed that state liason persons would submit lists of eight participants and eight alternates with biographical sketches and estimated travel expenses by December 20, 1977. These would be circulated to the committee for final approval by January 1, 1978, and participants would be invited by letter on January 3, 1978. Further discretionary invitations could be made by the host CBFL committee and the appropriate state liason person according to specific circumstances.

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA/ February 18 & 19, 1978

FRIDAY NIGHT Feb. 17, 1978

Arrival, getting acquainted, and hospitality room with cash bar. Registration runs from 8 to 10 p.m. Delegates may view open displays and film screenings.

SATURDAY

9-9:30 a.m. Welcome by Coalition for Barrier Free Living President Bob Geyer and City of Houston Mayor Jim McConn.

9:30-10:45 a.m. Introductory reports by state detailing organizational activities to date in each state. Reports will be 15 minutes long and will be coordinated by Regional Planning Committee representatives.

10:45- 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15- 1 p.m. Presentation by Frank Bowe, Executive Director of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, on "Why Should We Organize State Coalitions."

1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Lunch Break

2:30- 3:30 p.m. Presentation by Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities on "How to Organize a State Coalition."

3:30- 4 p.m. Break

4- 6 p.m. Individual states meet separately to plan future state-wide organizational activities.

7- 10 p.m. Banquet (open to press and public) featuring speakers Eunice Fiorito, President of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Regional Director of Health, Education, and Welfare.

SUNDAY

9- 11:30 a.m. Individual states meet separately to plan state-wide activities.

10-11:30 a.m. Concurrent meeting of selected representatives at region-wide coalition caucus.

11:30- 12:30 p.m. Final reports from individual states and conference wrap-up.

12:30-2 p.m. Lunch.

2- 3 p.m. Press Conference, report by states on individual plans.

3 p.m. on. Departure.

Host INTERNATIONAL HOTELS
Detroit · Houston Sacramento · Tampa

HOUSTON INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT
18700 KENNEDY BOULEVARD
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77205
AREA CODE (713) 443-2310

December 13, 1977

Mr. Lex Frieden
COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING
105 Drew Street
Houston, Tx 77006

Dear Mr. Frieden:

It was a pleasure having you with su at Host International Hotel.

We hope your function was successful and that our service and facilities met with your approval. If you have any comments or suggestions on ways we can improve, they would be very much appreciated.

We certainly want your business and will do everything possible to deserve it. Whenever I can be of service or assistance, in any way, please let me know.

Best regards,

Mickey McClanahan
CATERING & SALES MANAGER

MM/ct

CONFERENCE PREPARATION

After plans were made and funding secured, three major steps were necessary in preparing for the conference. First, a suitable site was selected and confirmed. Second, participants were selected and invited to attend the conference. Finally, speakers and presentors were invited and confirmed. One invited speaker, the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, was unable to attend. Two other keynote speakers, Frank Bowe and Eunice Fiorito from the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, agreed to participate. Also booked were Van and the Sign Company, a performing group, and an advocacy film, You Can Get It If You Really Want, produced by the CBFL. Preparations were also made for wheelchair accessible transportation, braille materials, interpreters for the deaf, press coverage, and printed conference packets.

HOUSTON-AIRPORT
TEXAS

January 31, 1978

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING
105 Drew
Houston, Texas 77006

Attention: Lex Friedan

Dear Mr. Friedan:

Enclosed please find copies of the confirmation sheets for your forthcoming functions Friday February 17th, Saturday February 18th, and Sunday February 19th of 1978. Please initial and return one copy noting any changes or additions you may have.

We, at Holiday Inn-Airport are delighted to have the opportunity to be your host. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Cordially,
HOLIDAY INN-AIRPORT

June Roberts
Catering Manager

JR:jr
Encl:

Holiday Inn | 3702 NORTH BELT EAST • P. O. BOX 60474
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77205
PHONE 713/449-2311

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1333 MOURSUND AVENUE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030

P. O. Box 20095
Houston, Texas 77025

Telephone
Area Code 713, 797-1440

February 10, 1978

Holiday Inn Airport

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter will serve to verify the sponsers intent to pay for accommodations required for the Coalition for Barrier Free Living Leadership Training Conference to be held at Airport Holiday Inn, Houston, on February 17,18, and 19, 1978. Payment for this meeting has been authorized by RT4, Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research and Baylor College of Medicine.

Ms. Jackie Mechoulam (797-1440,ext. 479) will arrange payment by Baylor. Please note that all taxes should be deferred as the funding agents are tax exempt organizations (#74-1334678).

Yours truly,

Lex Frieden
Conference Coordinator

LF/asm

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Participants were selected to attend the conference and workshop by the Regional Planning Committee, primarily on the basis of their demonstrated active involvement and leadership ability in organizations of handicapped people. Consideration by the committee was also given to the need for insuring, (1) representation of people with a broad range of disability types, (2) representation of people from ethnic minorities, from both sexes, and from varying age groups, (3) representation of people from wide geographical areas and from both urban and rural settings.

The following is a questionaire form used by one state to choose participants. Following the questionaire is a list of invited participants, materials mailed to them prior to the conference, and examples of correspondence with invited speakers.

QUESTIONAIRE FOR DELEGATE NOMINATION

Coalition for Barrier Free Living

Houston, Texas

February 18-19, 1978

Name: MAX M. RAY Phone None (deaf)

Address: 10248 Ridgely Dr. B.R. La. 70809
Street City State Zip

Age: 47 Sex: Male Marital Status: Married

Occupation: TEACHER AT LSSD

Describe briefly handicap: Deaf since birth

List organizations you are active in and offices held. Please list handicapped organizations first.

La Assn for the Deaf - Treasurer
National Assn of the Deaf
B.R. Assn of the Deaf - Board of Directs member
SouthWest A. Assn of the Deaf - Secy-Treasurer
Nat. Fraternal Society for the Deaf
La Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf - Treasurer
Convention of Amer. Instructors of the Deaf.
L.E.A.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION
WORKSHOP FOR HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS
AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN
HOUSTON, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 1978

coalition for barrier free living post office box 20803 houston, texas 77025

ROSTER OF PARTICIPANTS

ARKANSAS

Leroy Baugus HAPPI P.O. Box 90 Farmington, Ar. 72730	President, Handicapped American Providing Public Information
Betty Brown Fouke, Ar.	Miss Wheelchair Arkansas
Jack M. East Central Baptist Hospital 12th and Marshall, Room 350-352 Little Rock, Ar. 72202	President, American Amputee Foundation, Inc.
Bill Eckstein 2400 W. Markham Little Rock, Ar. 72205	President, Arkansas Association for the Deaf
Jim Hudson State Capitol, Room 011 Little Rock, Ar.	Governor's Advocate for the Developmentally Disabled
Nan Ellen Jackson 11 Tanglewood Lane Little Rock, Ar.	President, Arkansas Coalition for the Handicapped
Delbert Lewis 1320-H Brookwood Drive Little Rock, Ar.	Vice President, Arkansas Environmental Barriers Council, Inc.
Joe S. Register Central Baptist Hospital 12th and Marshall, Room 350-352 Little Rock, Ar.	Co-Director, State Conference on Handicapped Individuals
Ms. Maurie Tucker General Delivery Marshall, Ar. 72650	Attendant
Mr. Deener W. Wardlow 116 Berry St. Little Rock, Ar. 72205	Attendant

LOUISIANA

James H. Andrews
3740 Annette Drive
Metairie, La. 70001
PLACE International (Physically Limited Association for a Constructive Environment)
paraplegic

Patsy P. Barrett
14920 Tiger Bend Road
Baton Rouge, La. 70816
PLACE International (Physically Limited Association for a Constructive Environment)
quadriplegic

Riki DeJean
160 W. Bellevue St.
Opelousas, La. 70570
PLACE International (Physically Limited Association for a Constructive Environment)
paraplegic

David W. Myers
9425 Oliphant Dr.
Baton Rouge, La. 70809
Louisiana Association of the Deaf
deaf

David Morrison
4314 Whitefield Blvd.
Alexandria, La. 71301
PVA, Handicapped Association of Louisiana
paraplegic

Sudie Robinson
3450 Nicholson Dr. Apt. 1024
Baton Rouge, La. 70802
PLACE International (Physically Limited Association for a Constructive Environment)
paraplegic

Perry Tillman III
4616 Lafon Drive
New Orleans, La. 70126
PLACE International (Physically Limited Association for a Constructive Environment)
paraplegic

James L. Womack
P.O. Box 629
Winnfield, La. 71483
Louisiana Council for the Blind
amputee, blind

NEW MEXICO

Lawrence Brandon
40th First Plaza, 7th Floor
Albuquerque, N.M. 87102
New Mexico Handicapped Association
C.P.

Gary Cheadle
3539 E. 30th, Suite 104
Farmington, N.M. 87401
San Juan Co. Association for Retarded Citizens and Services to the Physically Handicapped

Dr. Guy R. Exon
109 Washington St. S.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87108
N.M. Governors Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped
amputee

Mr. Richard Ferguson
P.O.Box 1830
Santa Fe, N.M. 87503
DVR Services for the Blind
blind

Kathi Harmon
83 Calle Vadito, N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87120
Governor's Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped
paraplegic

Ralph Markvard 2608 Monroe N.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87110	Zia PVA; Executive Committee, Governors Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped quadriplegic
Ms. Daisey Rice 794 Kathryn Ave. Las Vegas, N.M. 87701	Director of Service, N.M. State Hospital deaf
Jerry Zimmerman 7808 Vista del Arroyo, N.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87109	N.M.H.A. post polio

OKLAHOMA

Frank Bagley 1130 Southwest 43rd St. Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109	O.A.D. deaf
Karol Caldwell Rt. 1 Box 254C Calera, Okla. 74730	S.O.C.C.D., O.C.C.D. paraplegic
Judith Dennis 6100 N Warren Oklahoma City, Okla. 73112	O.C.C.D. Central paraplegic
Joe Fallin 11863 E. 64th S. Tulsa, Okla. 74133	W.I.N., O.F.B., O.C.C.D. blind
Von Miers Box 846, ECU Ada, Okla. 74820	Handicapped Coalition at East Central University quadriplegic
Mike Phillips 2223 E. 54th Tulsa, Okla. 74105	W.I.N., O.C.C.D. uses wheelchair
Judy Pool 3101 N. Virginia Oklahoma City, Okla. 73118	O.F.B., O.C.C.D. blind
Kent Ryals Box 69 Vinita, Okla. 74301	O.C.C.D. Advocacy Committee, Deaf Interpreter post polio
Fred Watterson 151 S. 168 E. Ave. Tulsa, Okla. 74108	O.A.D., O.C.C.D., W.I.N. deaf

TEXAS

Charles Eskridge 4500 Edendale Court Austin, Tx. 78745	M.I.G.H.T. post polio
Larry Evans 4904 Woodstone #1103 San Antonio, Texas 78230	Texas Association of the Deaf deaf
Buffy Fetter Eastfield College 3737 Motley Mesquite, Tx. 75150	A.C.C.D. Board paraplegic
Margie Flores 223 N. Concepcion El Paso, Tx. 79905	Society for the Prevention of Educational Discrimination against the Handicapped mobility-impaired
Lex Frieden 9667 Meadowvale Houston, Tx. 77063	C.B.F.L. quadriplegic
Bob Geyer 4003 Bluebonnet Houston, Tx. 77025	C.B.F.L. quadriplegic
Marilyn Golden 3520 Garrott #1 Houston, Tx. 77006	C.B.F.L. paraplegic
Jim Grey 3400 Hulen Fort Worth, Tx. 76107	N.P.F. quadriplegic
Larry Johnson 5347 Blanco D-7 San Antonio, Tx. 78216	INSIGHT blind
Bob Kafka 2312 Commonwealth Apt. 8 Houston, Tx. 77006	C.B.F.L. quadriplegic
Lee Kitchen 938 Blue Lake Circle Richardson, Texas 75080	Little People of America
Pat Pound 11511 Fast Horse Austin, Tx. 78759	M.I.G.H.T. blind
Trudy Putteet 3610 47th St. Lubbock, Tx. 79413	West Texas N.P.F. quadriplegic
Elaine Roberts San Jacinto Bldg., Suite 201 9th and San Jacinto Austin, Tx. 78701	United Cerebral Palsy of Texas C.P.

coalition for barrier free living post office box 20803 houston, texas 77025

January 6, 1978

Dear

You are invited to attend and participate in a handicapped consumer leadership training conference and organization workshop to be held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Houston, Texas on Feb. 18-19, 1978.

The conference is being sponsored by the Coalition for Barrier Free Living (CBFL) through a grant from Rehabilitation, Research and Training Center 4, Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research, and Baylor College of Medicine (RSA, DHEW). CBFL is a Houston-based disabled rights organization managed by and for handicapped individuals (see attached brochure.)

The main objective of the conference is to provide an opportunity for handicapped consumer leaders from New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma to meet, learn, and share information about their respective organizations with the goal of facilitating statewide coalitions.

Invited speakers at this meeting include Eunice Fiorito, President of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities; Frank Bowe, Executive Director of ACCD, and Eddie Bernice Johnson, Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

A tentative conference agenda is enclosed for your information. **

CBFL will reimburse you for roundtrip coach-class airfare and will provide sleeping rooms with double occupancy for two nights, February 17 and 18, 1978. Please choose your own roomate from the attached list of participants before you arrive in Houston. Also, please make your own transportation travel plans and reservations. Accessible ground transport to and from Intercontinental Airport (take note: NOT HOBBY AIRPORT) will be available. To arrange for this service, please call Holiday Inn at 449-2311 when you arrive and ask for "Conference Wheelchair Transportation." If you do not require a specially adapted vehicle, please use the routine Holiday Inn shuttle bus.

Volunteer attendants, readers, interpreters, and wheelchair pushers will be provided by CBFL as requested. Sleeping rooms and bathrooms at the inn have sufficient space and wide doors to accomodate wheelchairs.

** There will be no banquet Saturday evening. Instead, we will have an open forum.

If you require the assistance of your own, personal attendant, that person must also receive a written invitation in order to be reimbursed for expenses

You are expected to pay for your own meals and any or all personal or incidental expenses such as telephone calls, transportation to and from your home airport, etc.

Participants who wish to drive to and from the conference will be reimbursed at a rate of 17¢ per mile, or at a rate equivalent to roundtrip coach class airfare from the same approximate location, whichever is less.

Expense claims should be completed before leaving the conference. Reimbursement checks will be mailed out sometime in March.

We sincerely hope that you can attend this meeting. However, if you cannot, we would like to invite someone else in your place. For this reason, it is important that you return the questionaire. Please indicate any special needs which you may have on the questionaire before returning it.

If you have any questions about the conference or arrangements you need to make, please contact the Regional Planning Committee member from your state or myself (see attached list).

CBFL looks forward to sponsoring this workshop/conference and we look forward to your active participation.

Yours truly

Lex Frieden

coalition for barrier free living post office box 20803 houston, texas 77025

January 6, 1978

Dear

You have been selected as an alternate to attend a Regional Leadership Training Conference and Organizational Workshop to be held Feb 18 and 19 in Houston, Texas.

The conference is being sponsored by the Coalition for Barrier Free Living (CBFL) through a grant from Rehabilitation, Research and Training Center 4, Texas Institute of Rehabilitation and Research, and Baylor College of Medicine (RSA, DHEW). CBFL is a Houston-based disabled rights organization managed by and for handicapped individuals (see attached brochure.)

The main objective of the conference is to provide an opportunity for handicapped consumer leaders from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma to meet, learn, and share information about their respective organizations with the goal of facilitating statewide coalitions.

Invited speakers at this meeting include Eunice Fiorito of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD); Frank Bowe, Executive Director of ACCD; and Eddie Bernice Johnson, Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. A tentative conference agenda is enclosed for your information.

The need for alternates was occasioned by limited space and funding restrictions. As an alternate, you will receive copies of all conference proceedings and training materials. Also, you are welcome to participate fully in the meeting provided that you do so at your own expense and that you are responsible for your own arrangements and accomodations. If you do decide to attend this conference, we would appreciate knowing in advance.

In the event that sufficient space and funding become available before Feb. 18, you will be notified and invited to attend with expenses paid.

If you have any questions regarding this endeavor, please contact the representative from your state on our Regional Planning Committee (see attached list). I hope you will support our efforts to encourage and expand our involvement, as handicapped individuals, in matters which affect our lives.

Sincerely yours

Lex Frieden

CBFL CONFERENCE CONFIRMATION QUESTIONAIRE

Please complete and return this conference confirmation questionaire in the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope.

_____ YES, I will participate in the Feb. 18-19 Leadership Training Conference and Organizational Workshop in Houston, Texas.

_____ NO, I will not be able to participate. Please invite someone in my place.

If you marked yes, do you require:

____ Your own personal attendant

____ Interpreters

____ Braille materials or cassettes

____ Other special needs or accomodations (Please specify below)

RETURN TRANSPORTATION FORM

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR RETURN TRANSPORTATION (i.e. IF YOU NEED TO GO TO THE AIRPORT VIA LIMOSINE OR VAN) YOU MUST GIVE THIS FORM TO STEVE ELLIOT (HOUSTON) OR MARILYN GOLDEN (HOUSTON -- AT REGISTRATION DESK ON FRIDAY NIGHT) BY SATURDAY BEFORE LUNCH.

NAME _____

HOLIDAY INN ROOM NUMBER _____ HOME CITY _____

CHECK ONE: CAN YOU USE A HOLIDAY INN LIMOSINE? _____ OR DO YOU NEED CBFL VAN SERVICE (LIMO IS NOT WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE)? _____

RETURN AIRLINE: _____

FLIGHT NUMBER _____ DEPARTURE TIME _____

YOU SHOULD BE NOTIFIED SATURDAY NIGHT AS TO WHAT TIME WE WILL PICK YOU UP.

SPECIAL REQUESTS?:

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT CLAIM

Leadership Training Conference and Organization Workshop
February 18-19, 1978

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

_____

Claim for roundtrip travel from _____ to Houston, Texas.
(home city)

If travel by plane, list ticket price $_____. (Receipts must be attached to claim.)

If travel by auto, mobile, etc., list number of roundtrip miles _____. (Reimbursement will be paid at a rate of 17¢ per mile, or at a rate equivalent to standard coach class airfare from the same approximate location, whichever is less.)

I certify that these expenses are true and accurate.

_____ _____
signature date

Note: CBFL will not be responsible for charges or expenses other than major transportation listed above and lodging for two nights, double occupancy. Reimbursement checks will be mailed in four to six weeks from this date.

LF/asm

coalition for barrier free living post office box 20803 houston, texas 77025

Mrs. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Regional Division
Health, Education & Welfare
Room 1100
1200 Main Tower
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

Please consider this a formal invitation to speak at a Regional Leadership Training Conference and Organizational Workshop to be held at the Airport Holiday Inn in Houston, Texas on February 18 and 19, 1978.

The conference is being sponsored by the Coalition for Barrier Free Living (CBFL) through a grant from Rehabilitation, Research and Training Center 4, Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, and Baylor College of Medicine (RSA, DHEW). CBFL is a Houston-based disabled rights organization managed by and for handicapped individuals (see attached brochure.)

The main objective of the conference is to provide an opportunity for handicapped consumer leaders from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma to meet, learn, and share information about their respective organizations with the goal of facilitating statewide coalitions. A tentative conference agenda is enclosed for your information.

The conference will be attended by 40-50 handicapped persons who have demonstrated leadership ability in organizations of handicapped individuals.

We would like for you to speak on Saturday evening, February 18, 1978. A talk of 15 to 20 minutes in length on a topic relating to the involvement of handicapped persons in governmental processes (perhaps Section 504 of Public Law 93-1/2) would compliment the rest of our agenda. We expect about 100 persons to attend this forum. The other invited speaker for the evening is Eunice Fiorito, a blind woman who is President of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

I sincerely hope that you are able to join us for what I expect to be a rewarding experience for all involved. As you know, we, as handicapped persons, have begun to assert ourselves in matters which affect our lives. It is important at this point to reinforce involvement in a constructive and progressive manner. If

there is any further information with which I can provide you, or arrangements which I can assist you in making, please feel free to call me. I look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Lex Frieden

Lex Frieden

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
REGIONAL OFFICE
1200 MAIN TOWER BUILDING
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

OFFICE OF
THE PRINCIPAL REGIONAL OFFICIAL

January 20, 1978

Mr. Lex Frieden
New Options Transitional Project
105 Drew
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Mr. Frieden:

Thank you for your invitation to speak at your Regional Leadership Training Conference on February 18, 1978. I regret I must decline since I have a very extensive travel schedule during the month of February.

Thank you for thinking about me. My best wishes for a very successful conference.

Respectfully,

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Principal Regional Official

November 28, 1977

Ms. Eunice Fiorito
Director of Mayors Office for
the Handicapped
250 Broadway, Rm. 1414A
New York, N.Y.

Dear Eunice,

This will confirm your participation and speech at our Coalition Workshop on February 18-19, 1978. We will reimburse you for coach class airfare and lodging expenses. Please make your own travel arrangements. Also, please send me some PR materials on yourself so we can attract the media.

Sincerely,

Lex Frieden
New Options Research Director

enclosures

LF/amm

WELCOME DISABLED LEADERS

FREEWHEELING

Coalition for Barrier Free Living

PO Box 20803
Houston, TX
77025
(713) 526-1651

HOUSTON, TEXAS | Volume 2, Number 4 | February, 1978

State Coalitions Sought

Leadership Meeting Begins

SECTION 2

Leadership Meeting Begins

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By Lex Frieden

More than 40 handicapped leaders from Texas and the four bordering states will meet at the Airport Holiday Inn in Houston on Feb. 18-19 to plan the formation of several statewide umbrella organizations. These coalitions will include groups of blind, deaf, and physically disabled individuals in search of enhanced opportunities in housing, transport, education, and employment.

The first of its kind in the nation, this weekend conference is sponsored by CBFL through a grant from RT 4.

Highlights of the gathering will include a public forum on Saturday night featuring nationally known disabled rights leader Eunice Fiorito; and a press conference on Sunday afternoon where the formation of statewide coalitions of disabled people will probably be announced.

The Saturday night forum will begin at 8 p.m. with a skit by Van and the Sign Com-Company, a group of entertainers similar to the famous theater for the deaf. Ms. Fiorito, the keynote speaker, will follow with a speech no one is likely to forget. Ms. Ms. Fiorito is President of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) (ACCD) and former director of New York City Mayor's Office of the Handicapped. Eunice began work Feb. 13 as Assistent to the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services for the U.S. government.

COALITION MOVIE PREMIERE

The grand finale for the evening will be the world premiere of CBFL's newest film, "You Can Get What You Need." The film demonstrates how active coalitions of disabled people can effectively influence government policies and public services. In this case CBFL demonstrated for and got the new HouTran Pick-Me-Up bus service for the elderly and the handicapped. CBFL members and friends are urged to attend this Saturday night session.

The weekend conference will bring some very active people to town. Among those persons will be the President of the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Mike Phillips, who recently filed a federal discrimination complaint against Oral Roberts University; and the Executive Director of ACCD, Frank Bowe, who led recent sit-ins in HEW Secretary Califano's office in order to secure government regulations preventing discrimination against handicapped individuals.

Dr. Bowe has just finished writing a book entitled "Handicapping America," in which he shows how Americans sometimes make handicapped people more handicapped than they really are.

The object of this conference is to facilitate the organization of statewide coalitions by providing a forum to discuss issues which must be resolved before any such coalitions can actually materialize.

Issues which will probably be discussed relate to proposed bylaws, organizational funding and goals, composition of a Board of Directors, membership criteria, and other points.

FREEWHEELING
Volume 2, Number 4
February, 1978

coalition for barrier free living
post office box 20803
houston, texas 77025

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION

WORKSHOP FOR HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN

HOUSTON, TEXAS

FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 1978

FRIDAY NIGHT - Feb. 17, 1978

Arrival, getting acquainted, and hospitality room with cash bar. Registration runs from 8:00-10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY - Feb. 18, 1978

9:00-9:30 a.m.	Welcome by Coalition for Barrier Free Living President Bob Geyer and City of Houston Mayor Jim McConn.
9:30-10:45 a.m.	Introductory reports by state detailing organizational activities to date in each state. Reports will be 15 minutes long and will be coordinated by Regional Planning Committee representatives.
10:45-11:15 a.m.	Break
11:15-1:00 p.m.	Presentation by Frank Bowe, Executive Director of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, on "Why Should We Organize State Coalitions".
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Presentation by Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities on "How to Organize a State Coalition".
3:30-4:00 p.m.	Break
4:00-6:00 p.m.	Individual states meet separately to plan future state-wide organizational activities.
8:00-10:00 p.m.	Forum (open to press and public) featuring Eunice Fiorito, President of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Washington, D.C.

SUNDAY - Feb. 19, 1978

9:00-11:30 a.m.	Individual states meet separately to plan state-wide activities.
10:00-11:30 a.m.	Concurrent meeting of selected representatives at region-wide coalition caucus.
11:30-12:30 p.m.	Final reports from individual states and conference wrap-up.
12:30-2:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Press Conference, report by states on individual plans.
3:00 p.m.	Departure.

LF/asm

coalition for barrier free living post office box 20803 houston, texas 77025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CBFL would like to recognize the following groups and express thanks for their contributions to this conference:

Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research

Goodwill Industries of Houston

CBFL members and volunteers

Conference Regional Planning Committee

Van and the Sign Company

Lighthouse for the Blind

United Fund Interpreters

American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities

LF/asm

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HAPPI
P.O. Box 90
Farmington, Ar. 72730

Betty Brown
Fouke, Ar.

Jack M. East
Central Baptist Hospital
12th and Marshall, Room 350-352
Little Rock, Ar. 72202

Bill Eckstein
2400 W. Markham
Little Rock, Ar. 72205

Nan Ellen Jackson
11 Tanglewood Lane
Little Rock, Ar.

Delbert Lewis
1320-H Brookwood Drive
Little Rock, Ar.

Joe S. Register
Central Baptist Hospital
12th and Marshall, Room 350-352
Little Rock, Ar.

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Gary Cheadle
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Albuquerque, N.M. 87108

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Tulsa, Okla. 74105

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Virginia Roberts
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Austin, Tx. 78704

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Baton Rouge, La. 70815

Ken Vince
500 River Road
Baton Roupe, La. 70802

Don Galloway
1525 Sherman
Denver, Colo. 80203

Duke & Diane Stallard
127 N. Main
Roswell, N. M. 88201

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Of the fifty-one invited individuals who were present both days of the conference, 70 per cent were male and 30 per cent female. They represented twenty-six different communities, at least forty organizations, and more than ten primary disability types. 30 per cent of the group were spinal cord injured, 16 per cent were deaf, 14 per cent were blind, 10 per cent were post polio, 8 per cent were able-bodied, and the remainder were disabled as a result of cerebral palsy, multiple schlerosis, arthritis, amputation, and so forth.

It should be noted that transportation expenses were paid for thirty-nine attendees at a cost of $4197.98. Twelve individuals who were invited as alternates to come at their own expense did so. Several other persons attended limited portions of the conference.

"Coalition Building"

By Dr. Frank Bowe

Keynote Address to the Regional Leadership Training Conference and Organization Workshop held in Houston, Texas delivered on February 18, 1978.

What I will say to you is what the A.C.C.D., the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, has learned and done in a few, very short years. Under the leadership of President Eunice Fiorito, who will speak to you later, A.C.C.D. has become a broad-based and responsible organization representing virtually every category of disability, every age range, and every kind of need throughout the United States. The experience and guidance she has offered together with such people as Buffy Fetter, Lex Frieden, and Judy Heumann, is among others, exemplary of their vision, their talent, their incredible hard work and long hours that has made A.C.C.D. what it is today. It also enables me to share some ideas with you that really work. Ideas that have been tried, proven, and refined. These ideas will help you. But you must provide the leadership, the hard work and long hours. People like Mike Phillips from Oklahoma will testify to that. You can meet many of these people who are involved as directors of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in our next board meeting in Dallas on March 11th. You can talk with Buffy about the details.

I will try to tackle two simple questions with some not-so-simple answers. First, why a coalition? And secondly, how a coalition?

Why? The answer revolves around three ideas: access, representation, and consensus.

Access, because you have to open a door to open a mind. You have to get in at whatever level an effort is being made. In America today you do that by demonstrating that you represent a large number of people, the more the better, who care about the issue at hand, who have told you what they believe about it, and who have authorized you to represent them. To get to see top Presidential aides, cabinet secretaries,

commissioners, governors, senators, and congressmen you need numbers behind you. That's access. And a coalition helps you gain access. That's true because a coalition brings together a large number of people, preferably encompasing different groups, diverse opinions. A.C.C.D., for example, brings people together with virtually every kind of disability: deafness, blindness, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and even including the disabilities included under Section 504: alcoholics and drug addicts. The result is that when A.C.C.D. speaks, it speaks for 60 organizations representing 7 million Americans, 36 million disabled people. It gets access.

Like access, representation is a key to coalitions. We look at representation as a complex and difficult process. It's time consuming, it demands patience, and it mandates that the steps be taken, each and every one, each and every time. Spokespersons must represent the views of their constituents. They must reflect accurately the real views of these people. But this means really getting out there and talking with these people, finding out what they believe, what they want, and advising them of their rights and opportunities available to them. Even that is not enough. The first person must then go back to his or her constituents and report to them what has happened. He or she must go back and say here's what I've said, here's what they said, and here's where things stand now. What do you want me to do next? All of this, of course, can be and is interpreted intelligently by the leader. But the leader cannot deviate or delay reporting back to the people. If he or she does, the access gained will be false and will quickly disappear.

One more key point on "Why a Coalition?" Access and representation are two of these great points on a triangle. The third is

consensus. Paradoxical as it may seem, representation of diverse groups and different views must be unified, coherent, and simple. You must be able to tell the issue maker one thing: here is what we want you to do. And that one thing has to be something on which consensus has been achieved. A compromise, perhaps, but a simple and clear point.

Access, representation, and consensus; they're not easy. It is necessary to bring people together who view problems in terms of one disability. And to help them see the same problems across many disabilities. Take, for example, Section 504. Section 504 means for deaf people, interpreters and access into programs. For people in wheelchairs, it means physical access to buildings and transportation systems. For blind people it means readers, guides, and brailling.

A coalition cannot prefer one group over another. Rather it must help each group see the overall issues; to see the implications of action for each and all of them. The coalition must stress and constantly help people to understand the cross cutting nature of the issues they face. And it's necessary to again, and again, and again go back and to help people overcome the natural tendency to see an issue only in terms of their disability. It's necessary to again, and again, and again go back and help them see that action based not just on that disability but cross disability action can be helpful. It can help people to gain access, representation, and consensus.

It's necessary to secure funds to do all of this. A.C.C.D. gets its money from Federal agencies to do specific projects; from private sources also to do projects and for general support; from dues and from contributions. Before I started with A.C.C.D., the budget was

a thousand dollars. When I got there it was $50,000, and one year later it was $400,000, and it's still growing. We will have to continue to grow to meet the needs, particularly this spring and summer, because by fall disabled people will face a situation described very well by Langston Hughes. Langston Hughes said, "See what happens to a raisin in the sun. It is the same for a dream deferred too long."

Access, representation, and consensus. These are the "whys" of a coalition. They are readily appreciated in their absence. Without access you cannot get to see the issue maker at all. Without representation you speak for yourself with no real or lasting clout. Without consensus you become quickly contradictory and your credibility is destroyed.

Now, how do you have a coalition? How do you initiate it? How do you establish it? How do you maintain it? There is nothing mysterious or magical about building a coalition. It's basically straight forward, a lot of hard work, a lot of mundane and picky details.

But first I will describe to you what seems obvious. You may be tempted to dismiss them with "everybody knows that." I suggest that you don't. These principles emerged after four years of difficult research. They are products of tough lessons in the real world, of hours of research in the library and interviews with experts. They work if you apply them diligently and thoroughly.

In initiation, how do you start? First of all, there must be an issue or problem that touches all potential members. Some real issue that affects all disabled people must exist. It must be found, interpreted, and explained preferably by a leader who is committed to the idea of cross disability cooperation. He will talk to people

and say to them, "This affects you but it also affects other people. Let me explain why. What does this mean for you and other people with disabilities." There must be a real issue and the fact of that issue, its existence and implications must be expained and interpreted.

Secondly, potential members must recognize that they share concerns in common. They must see it themselves. They must see that regardless of the disability better education is something they are worried about. Better rehabilitation is something they're worried about. Employment, housing, transportation, and civil rights. They must see the cross-cutting nature of these issues.

Third, each potential member must see that joint action promises to benefit them more than does independent and separate action. They must see that they will gain more by cooperating than they will by acting alone. This may have to be taught.

Establishment. How do you bring it off? First, you must design with the potential members, a structure that they are convinced will work, and will bring to them the benefits for which they joined. They will have to see that the structure will meet their needs. Second, you must build in a mechanism of conflict resolution that assures members of autonomy and freedom when they cannot agree on goals and procedures. It will happen that people will not be able to agree. Let me take,for example, working on Section 504. We reached a point when the Board of Directors of A.C.C.D. determined that no further progress could be made, and indeed, a tremendous loss was likely, unless a demonstration occurred. We reached that point, but many members did not. We had member organizations that didn't believe demonstrations were appropriate. They could not support it. But we have a mechanism that enabled them to continue to be affiliated with A.C.C.D. but not to be identified with that demonstration, not to be embarassed by it

and not forced to go along with it.

Third, you must insure them all of a clear voice in setting direction for the coalition. They must feel that their voice will be heard and heeded. Fourth, all of this must just not occur; it must be seen to occur. It's a question of perception. Potential members must see and believe that it will work and that conflict will be resolved and their voices will be heard and heeded.

Now, maintenance. How do you keep it going? First, members must continually see that issues touch them collectively, not just individually. Secondly, they must perceive a series of issues coming up that call for cross disability cooperation. We hope our members see that through our publications. You have "A.C.C.D. Action" that comes out monthly. "Action" focuses on particular issues. It explains them in cross disability terms. It helps the members, regardless of their disabilities, to see relevance to them and to other disabled people. It helps them to see the merits and benefits of cross disability action. It tells them what to do, who to write to, and who to call and what to say. It tells them what they need to know, what they need to do, and how they can work cooperatively. It's very specific. Any member can disregard it, follow it to the letter, adapt it in any way they want. What we suggest, first of all, is that an issue exists; secondly, that joint action can be effective; and third, that action should be taken.

Coalitions are inherently unstable. They tend to come apart without a perception by members that a coalition does work. A coalition naturally brings together people with different needs and different desires. Unless they see that working together is effective, they will tend to go back to isolated and individual efforts. Coalitions help

them to see what they have done together, what results have been achieved and what those results mean.

So after maintenance, first, members must see that issues continually affect them collectively and not just individually. Secondly, their autonomy must continually be respected. This is critical. Each organization must feel it can go along as far as they want to and stop when they want to. They can step out on particular issues and particular actions. They can do their own thing if they feel that would be more effective and more appropriate to their needs. And a coalition must go along with this and help them do it. A.C.C.D. provides to its members, when they disagree with what we're doing, all the information we can to help them do what they want to do. We will assist them in getting appointments, getting to see people, and knowing how to approach an issue so they can do their own thing.

Third, a coalition itself as a board and a staff must avoid becoming a competitive force with its own axe to grind. The staff and the board cannot take a position apart and separate from its members. Rather, the board and staff must be loyal to one ideal: cooperation. The very idea of cooperation. The coalition staff must do what the consensus of the members mandate, and nothing else. This doesn't mean they must be mindless. But it does mean that for the coalition to continue, the board and staff must reflect the desires and needs of the members and not to compete with them.

Fourth, you must offer to members the opportunities to build patterns of cooperation through joint activities beginning with little things and building on and up. We started in A.C.C.D. with very small things. So small that they seem rather foolish when we look back. A.C.C.D., which mounted the largest demonstration in the history of the United

States by disabled people, also conducted in the beginning such small activities as meetings of two and three people on very small issues. But it is through these small things that people came together. It's through them that deaf people started to meet blind people, that people in wheelchairs started to see people with epilepsy in the same room talking about the same things. We began with blind people in one corner, people in wheelchairs in another corner, deaf people in another corner, and people with other disabilities in the fourth corner. Gradually, they started coming together with surprise to see that what they wanted was what the other group wanted. With small things they began to work together, they began to talk to each other, and they began to know what each other could do and couldn't do. They began a coalition.

Fifth, the coalition must be perceived as a success. It must not just work. The members must see that it works. And more importantly, that they can work and be successful and effective within the context of a coalition. They must see that by working together with others, things are achieved which cannot be achieved by individuals and isolated actions. A.C.C.D. has pulled these ideas and a history of how they work together into a book that will be published next week called "Coalition Building." It will be available from the home office. "Coalition Building" explains what A.C.C.D. did and how it did it. It traces the beginnings and describes the structure. It talks about the issues and explains how the Coalition works, and how well, where it succeeded and where it failed. This year's Delegate Council will be held in Washington, April 29-May 2, 1978, at the Sheraton National Hotel, to bring together the members of our national organizations to make it work even better.

To form state coalitions you need strong leadership, tough and patient people who care less about glory and acclamation than they do about honest representation and hard work. You need money too. A.C.C.D. has prepared some mock proposals which will help you get money. And we remain willing and able to help you explore ways of getting money. We have also written some guidelines on how to do it. I think equally significant in building state coalitions will be the leadership and experience of people like Mike Phillips, people who have been active on a state level and who can speak from their own experiences. The rest is up to you. You will have to supply the leadership, the hard work and long hours. I think it is worth it. I think you will too. Thank you very much.

"Why We're Here"

An Address by American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities President Eunice Fiorito. Delivered to the evening session of the CBFL Leadership Training Conference and Coalition Workshop on Feb.18, 1978 in Houston, Texas.

President Fiorito is introduced by Coalition for Barrier Free Living Vice-President Bob Kafka.

Thank you very much Bob, ladies and gentlemen and future militants. I am here this evening at the request of the Committee, with specific instructions by Lex Frieden that at the pain of death it is my responsibility to "wow" you. So even if you don't feel "wowed" when this presentation is over please pretend, because I do want to return to the east. It is colder there, than in the sunny warm south, it wouldn't look great for the future militants of the south and west to be responsible for my demise. That's no way to accomplish our goals. That's taking activism to the Nth degree.

I said that you are future militants. That has many implications. In thinking over what the term militancy means, you will have to go back and examine why you all came here to this meeting in the first place.

Last night, or perhaps it was early this morning, and I don't mean this morning at 9 a.m., I mean 3, 4, or 5 a.m., a few brave souls lingered around my room and I asked them why they were here. You would have thought I asked them a $164,000 question. They kind of squirmed and scratched and said "Gee, I don't know why I'm here." And I began to get a little shakey. And I thought "Jeepers, all this money and they don't know why we're here? All the problems that we have and they don't know why they came?" And then some of them said, "I came to learn." That's lofty and noble. "What do you want to learn", I asked. And again the squirming and scratching of heads. "I want to

learn what is going on," someone responded. "I want to learn what other people are doing, how to do it. I want to learn how to get something from them."

I hope you've heard what I said. Each of those sentences began with "I want."

Today, during our sessions, we heard about some of the things that are going on in our states, and truly, it was impressive to see what has been going on piecemeal. At lunch, we all continued to "I learn." In the afternoon we began to struggle with our "smarts." We began to look at and incorporate better what we had learned. And as I passed through the different sessions, it was very, very apparent that people and states felt, to a degree, that they had learned things but weren't sure exactly what. Groups met and they talked. Some were worried about the commas in the bylaws, and others worried about how many people are going to participate and whether they'd have to do all the work. Others decided that they would go back home and try to further incorporate what they learned and set up state-wide somethings in order to form a coalition. But the feeling, it was interesting for me to observe, was not yet a feeling of really true, firm, honest-to-Pete commitment. A hesitancy, a reservation of "should we?", of "what am I going to get out of it?", is the thought or the feeling I picked up.

You may ask, "How am I going to further learn about forming coalitions?" Many things must occur. The basic must be your own, personal consciousness raising and finding of yourself, before you can lead others. All of you have potential as leaders in your city, state, and region. You must, however, have a sense and feeling about yourself that "I am somebody,""I am equal," "I do deserve," "It will happen." You must feel the frustration of the injustices that each of us experience.

You must feel it in your guts. You must now want to tolerate it for you first and every other handicapped person in your locality, your state, and this nation. You must want to do something that is personal. You must want to do something that will bring about change. You must make that commitment to yourself first of all.

You must believe with each of us that we are able, that we will overcome the gigantic task that lies before us, that we are willing to experiment and try, and that we are willing to scratch and willing to work. It is only through that beginning personal commitment and conviction that we can extend and expand ourselves to develop that potential leadership that is within us and so desperately needed by each of us. Because we are interdependent. Don't kid yourselves. Often questions are asked of me as President of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. I am sure that Frank Bowe, and I am sure that some of you as leaders have been asked the same questions. They are: "What am I going to get by joining a coalition? What will our local group accomplish by joining another group?" One thing you will get is knowledge of what is happening. You will get intellectual gratification through learning. But most important of all is the strength we will mutually gain from each other. We mutually are interdependent whether it be you and me, as persons with disabilities, or whether it be local coalitions interrelated with state coalitions and further interrelated with the national coalition. We need each other, not only to survive, and that's a fact, but we need each other in order to overcome those attitudinal obstacles and environmental obstacles that we continue to try to eliminate.

In the Washington office that headquarters the A.C.C.D., we need to hear about not only your problems but your solutions as well. We so often talk about grassroots involvement. Remember? That was a term that

was very prevalent in the last few years. "Got to have that grassroots involvement." The fact is, however, that in order to have that involvement those roots must be planted and they must sprout up. We have got to know from you what it is you want and what you need. And in turn, you have got to know from us what is possible for us to do for you.

We can talk from here to wherever in Washington to the legislators, the aides, and to the Administration but it is right here that you, through political action and involvement, must touch your Congressman and make it known and count. There are many other ways in which we are interdependent but let me tell you one more thing. This is a very serious time because the environment, the climate, the nation are still ripe for learning our problems and looking at them and solving some of them. However, you will note that the times are slowly but definitely changing. We must take advantage of the "now." You must take advantage of the "now."

In the coming year there will be elections in your states for some of your senators and some of your congressmen. One of the first tasks you must begin to think about and direct yourself to is letting these people who are running for office know that you are there, that you count. They must realize they have a responsibility to you, their constituents. You must in fact do that. And that brings forth another element in the dynamics of "why you are here and how a coalition is developed." Continuously developing a conscience of self, experiencing frustration, believing in yourself and your convictions, making the commitment. It is therefore important and essential that we all act responsively. Responsively, meaning we must all be attuned to each other's problems and concerns. We must be sensitive and make ourselves progressively more sensitive to each other's problems and differences. But we

responsibly take that sensitivity, awareness, and knowledge and act with the utmost and greatest sense of responsibility to get a task accomplished. Last year when the A.C.C.D. was working on getting the 504 Regulations signed, we did not come about the act of a demonstration at ten regional HEW centers by a quick, momentary decision. We worked up to that point in 1977 from a year and a half earlier when we were infants. As many of you know A.C.C.D. has not yet had its third birthday. We started by working with the Administration in trying to write reasonable and acceptable regulations. Later in 1976 we had meetings with the Secretary of HEW whose name, interestingly enough, I've momentarily blocked out of my memory. I remember having a nose-to-nose confrontation with him. He first walked into the room and said, "Oh, isn't it nice to see you, Eunice." And after I listened to him for ten minutes playing the father and perhaps a preacher role, I grabbed him by both shoulders and went nose-to-nose. And I didn't address him, "Mr.Secretary." I said, "You know,George, we try to talk, we tried to work. We gave here, we gave there, without losing sight of our goal. We thought that reasonable and strong regulations would be written. Four months have passed and we are still unsuccessful and we are still playing games."

We went and did our thing in front of Congress and finally we went to court. That is still a recognized way to proceed. Simultaneously, we got ourselves the new administration and then just two days before the new administration came in, the former secretary decided he was going to send the regulations he had promised back to Congress. So we went to court, and somehow we got a stay. It was really a layover. Then the Carter-Califano regime came in. And we had to make allowances for them. And after two or three weeks they settled in and found their desks. We began to discuss the same old round of discussions, with the same rationality but more intensity. And almost a year ago today on Feb. 18,

1977, Mr. Califano came out with a press release saying he would not be able to sign the regulations, that he needed to study them further. Those regulations had been studied, restudied, and superstudied. But these were new people. And so A.C.C.D. came out with another press release saying, "We want those regulations signed in a reasonable amount of time because we are reasonable people." And so he said that he would have them ready in two or three weeks. And a week later they said they needed yet another delay. Finally, the A.C.C.D. Board realized it was time to take more drastic action. A motion was passed directing the Executive Director to work with the coalition groups in each of the regions to set up the demonstrations on the day of April 5, 1977. The day before the demonstrations Frank Bowe and representatives of A.C.C.D. met with Administration representatives. They tried to coerce us into accepting another delay. Frank and his group left Mr. Califano's office with the press and everybody's mouths hanging open, wondering how could these handicapped people do this to these people. And the next day the demonstrations were called. It was orderly but it was an experience for those of us who were there and for those who participated in the ten regional offices around the country. And it was an experience for the disabled people around this country because the story was told that disabled people were trying to act responsibly and responsively work within the system but the system was not being responsible or responsive. It told the people of this nation more about disabled people as people with rights than 100 or 500 goodies issued by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

For the first time non-disabled people were able to relate to us as people who are being oppressed and denied and stepped on. For the first time I was able to walk down the street and have someone say, "Hey, that was really super what you guys did. We never knew that handicapped people didn't have their civil rights. We never knew it was really hard

to get a job. We thought you were well taken care of. Tell me more, tell me more than society has been able to say."

So that demonstration in my opinion did a great deal. Many disabled people around the country feel that the only way to go when you can't solve a problem immediately is through a demonstration. We of the A.C.C.D, we being a bright, beautiful board , have a few anxious board members. Whenever we have a problem they ask, "When are we going to demonstrate?" The next time we have a demonstration I plan to phone those people and tell them to take vacations from their jobs, come to Washington, and take 18 hours to pull it together. They'll never want to demonstrate again. Demonstration militancy, overt inciting activism is a technique that must be used with thoughtfulness, care, and planning. Never forget that your work is hard. It is not glamour before cameras. It is change that comes about slowly. Change comes through effort. Change comes about through scratching, through articulating, by confronting, by constantly doing and trying. There is no pat method of solving the problem of how to get the housing or building department to do or to change or modify its building code. You must now know the other element. You must gather your factors and know your department and try to understand the politics and political environment. You must go to them with the best solution you can think of. Do not expect that solutions are on page 53 of the A.C.C.D. advocacy manual that Frank has yet to write. Because the ingredients you have at hand may not be the same. Ladies and gentlemen, tonight and tomorrow search yourselves to find not what you are going to learn or what you are going to get. But in fact who am I and how much am I willing to give and to commit. How much am I willing to work? How much more am I willing to give up of myself to solve not the other guy's problems, but my problems? Ask yourself that.

Before you leave tomorrow there will be some state coalitions

formed. And within a month or two other coalitions will form. The coalition movement is on its way. Whether or not you take it upon yourself to participate in a coalition is to some degree important to me because I'm selling "coalition." I believe in them. But more importantly, no matter how you go about it, no matter whether you do it collectively or individually, small groups or state groups, that fight must go on. We and only we can fight our own battles only if we truly believe in ourselves, and truly believe that I have the right and will exercise the right to make the decisions about my life. It is important that the fight be carried on locally, on the state, and on the national level.

I start another job next week as Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration. I go into that job with the express understanding that I have been co-opted. I don't know what you call a "lady Uncle Tom" but that's what I've been called. However, I believe that we have to work on all fronts. We need people on the inside to influence and change the system. We need people in groups and coalition committees on the employment of the handicapped, working together on the outside. And I hope my role will bridge the gap in some small way between the outside and the inside.

I make a commitment to scratch, growl, speak, kick, and scream to protect the rights of myself and other disabled people in this country while I'm in this position. I hope that each of you will activate your commitment not in words but in actions by getting out and giving this world what you have, and correcting the injustices, the unfairness, and inequities that each of us continue to experience. Go get em. Together we will not only overcome but we're gonna make it, because if we don't, together we will be oppressed. I don't know about you but I'm not of the temperament to be put down. So ladies and gentlemen, let's

get out there and bring about that change and show them what the hell it is all about.

Thank you very much.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES BY STATE

At the end of the CBFL conference, representatives from each of the five states came together to give reports on their involvement in forming state coalitions.

Arkansas reported that their state coalition has been formed by parent group organizations comprised of blind, deaf, and mobility-impaired interest groups. These groups will be the nucleus for continued development and expansion of their coalition. This expansion will be brought about in many ways. Approval from the existing board is expected to pass with little difficulty . A revision of the bylaws will be worked out to meet the needs of expansion. A letter of invitation and purpose will be sent to interested groups. An early spring or late fall conference is planned to bring together these groups and strengthen a more unified coalition. At this time a decision might be made to join A.C.C.D.

Louisiana has resolved to form a coalition, and also to ask A.C.C.D. for financial assistance. A Governor's Conference on the issue of disability is to take place in Alexandria on the first weekend in June. They expect to accept the bylaws of A.C.C.D.

New Mexico reported that they have a defacto coalition for the handicapped which is an outgrowth of the White House Conference. The New Mexico Handicap Association has been the vehicle that has provided the connection to the development of a coalition. A governor's meeting is planned for the future. They will use the P.V.A. newsletter and staff assistance till their own office is formed. The need for a good issue was mentioned. Having handicapped persons in key, non-token positions in state agencies was also discussed.

Oklahoma already has a state coalition, the Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, and their position in the Oral Roberts University discrimination case is widely known. They're developing the possibility of acting on the issue of education for the deaf.

Texas formed a coalition at this conference called Texas Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (T.C.C.D.) with a seven member board representing each section of the state. Fund raising activities, developing lines of communication, affiliation with A.C.C.D., and the formation of bylaws are immediate concerns.

PUBLICITY

The project attracted noteable public attention. Locally, the Houston Post and Houston Chronicle, the major dailies, ran articles on the conference. The CBS, NBC, and ABC television affiliates carried interviews and features and numerous radio stations reported on the event. Additionally, many inquiries were received from the public concerning conference events. Examples of the news coverage and public correspondence are included below:

Page 10, Section 1 Houston Chronicle Saturday, February 18, 1978

Pushing for equal opportunity legislation

Organizations for disabled meet

Leaders of about 70 organizations for disabled persons are meeting in Houston this weekend to learn how to organize themselves and push for legislation that would insure them equal opportunity in all areas.

Eunice Fiorito, president of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, based in Washington, will be the keynote speaker for the conference, being held at the Airport Holiday Inn. She will address the meeting at 8 p.m. today.

Ms. Fiorito, who has been blind for 20 years, has just been named special assistant to the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration within the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

She organized the Mayor's office of the Handicapped in New York City under then Mayor John V. Lindsay, and led the Disabled Women's Platform for the National Women's Year conference in Houston in December.

"We are trying to set up coalitions, bring together different disabled groups in the states to work to get laws implemented and passed for equal opportunity," she said.

The Houston meeting is the first time the national coalition has attempted to work on a regional basis. Formerly, it had organized on a city or state basis.

The aims of the conference are to get the leaders of the various organizations to talk to each other, discuss common problems, and teach them how to effectively organize to lobby for action on their behalf.

The American Coalition, she said, represents seven million of the 38 million disabled people in this country and is only three years old.

In its brief history, Ms. Fiorito said, the coalition has persuaded Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano to sign a regulation forbidding any entity receiving federal funds from discriminating against the disabled.

She said the group also persuaded the staff for the Office of Civil Rights to handle complaints of the handicapped and got Department of Transportation Secretary Brock Adams to sign an executive order requiring buses purchased with federal funds after September 1979 to be accessible to and usable by the disabled. This requires low floors, wide doors and ramps.

28A/The Houston Post/Sun., Feb. 19, 1978★

Overcoming barriers

'Handicapped' leaders organizing coalitions

By ROB MECKEL
Post Reporter

Eunice Fiorito took a nap 25 years ago and awoke four hours later in total darkness.

The sudden blindness, caused by glaucoma, caused the 16-year-old girl to adjust to a life of having people consider her what she described as "a blind object instead of a normal person."

But she said she refused to succumb to playing the stereotyped role of a blind person and refused to resign herself to helplessness.

"You've got to realize that you are somebody . . . that you're important," she said at a Saturday meeting here of about 60 persons representing organizations of handicapped people in five states.

Fiorito, president of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD), said the weekend conference was designed to show handicapped group representatives the mechanics of forming state coalitions and possibly a regional coalition encompassing Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

The plight of handicapped Americans is improving gradually, but many barriers must yet be overcome, she said.

The key to a better life for the nearly 36 million disabled persons in this country, she said, is organization into groups large enough to influence political leaders at all levels of government.

EUNICE FIORITO

Bob Geyer, president of Houston's Coalition for Barrier Free Living, said "everyone had pretty well decided" before arriving at the conference that state and regional coalitions were needed.

Fiorito said she was lucky enough after becoming blind to have the support of her friends and family. She was back in school within a month and was graduated from a Chicago high school.

Then she learned to be "more functionally independent" through a disability program which taught her to read braille and walk with a cane. She said the program also taught her "the American system tends to lock people into a dependency-poverty cycle."

She said administrators of the rehabilitation program in which she was enrolled were glad to see her go off to college because she was "making waves." Fiorito said the program paid handicapped persons 10 cents an hour to perform the same tasks for which the non-handicapped were paid $2 an hour.

"They did this under the guise of rehabilitation and training, even though some people had being doing the work for several years," Fiorito said. The ACCD president said rehabilitation systems should be changed so they are funded not on the total number of clients they keep in their program, but on how many people they help become gainfully employed and function better.

Fiorito said the ACCD, which was founded in 1978, now is comprised of about 70 national organizations and disabled persons. The organization opened its office in Washington in 1976 after receiving a $50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to develop coalition groups to help handicapped citizens, she said.

She said ACCD now operates on a budget of about $350,000 provided by various HEW agencies.

2-18-78

SLIDE(HANDICAPPED)KEYED

2

KPRC TV

SONY SOUND UP, 2:07 10

SUPER SLIDE
NAPOLEON JOHNSON
REPORTING

TRANSCRIPT(JOHNSON)
"THE MEETING AT THE AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN INCLUDES GROUPS OF BLIND,DEAF, AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS. THEY ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED IN HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION,EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

AMONG SEVERAL KEY SPEAKERS AS FRANK BOWE, DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES. BOWE'S GROUP LED RECENT SIT-INS IN WASHINGTON IN HEW SECRETARY CALIFANO'S OFFICE CALLING FOR REGULATIONS THAT PREVENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE HANDICAPPED. HE TOLD THE GROUP HERE THAT THEIR GREATEST STRENGTH LIES IN ORGANIZING...FORMING COALITIONS WORKING TOGETHER WITH A COMMON VOICE FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL PEOPLE WITH HANDICAPS, INSTEAD OF FRAGMENTING THEMSELVES INTO LITTLE GROUPS OFF BY THEMSELVES.

HOUSTON HAS THE COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING THE GROUP HAS MADE SOME INROADS HERE THAT BENEFIT THE HANDICAPPED, BUT MORE WILL BE DONE. :51

INSERT: PRESIDENT BOB GEYER 1:04

68

THE HANDICAPPED ARE BECOMING MORE VOCAL ABOUT THEIR NEEDS AND RIGHTS AND THEY ARE FINDING STRENGTH IN ORGANIZING THEMSELVES.

BIG TWO NEWSREPORTER NAPOLEON JOHNSON SAYS HANDICAPPED LEADERS FROM TEXAS AND NEIGHBORING STATES ARE MEETING IN HOUSTON THIS WEEKEND TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ORGANIZING. 15

MORE MORE MORE MORE

COALITION FOR BARRIER FREE LIVING MORE

7

TRANSCRIPT (JOHNSON) 69

THE GROUPS AT THIS MEETING HOPE TO COME UP WITH PLANS FOR STATE WIDE COALITIONS IN TEXAS AND NEIGHBORING STATES. THEY'LL BE MEETING THROUGH SUNDAY.

NAPOLEON JOHNSON BIG T.O NEWS. :12

FREEWHEELING

Coalition for Barrier Free Living

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Volume 2, Number 5

March, 1978

Texans Form Disabled Alliance

SECTION 3

FREEWHEELING Volume 2, Number 5 March, 1978

Texans Form State Disabled Alliance

BY Lex Frieden

"I hereby move that the Texas Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities be established."

With those words, CBFL President Bob Geyer formally initiated the creation of an organization which will represent more than one million Texas citizens, who because of their disabilities, have not shared fully in the benefits of our society available to the general population.

Among the first tasks of this coalition will be its incorporation, the planning of a statewide delegate conference to be held later this year, and the establishment of procedures to insure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from the voting process because of their disabilities.

The formation of TCCD was the primary objective of the recent CBFL-sponsored leadership training conference held at the Intercontinental Holiday Inn on Feb. 17-19. Although other state delegations discussed formation of statewide coalitions, Texas was the only state to actually form one at the conference. Oklahoma already has a statewide coalition.

Following Geyer's motion at the Texas caucus, 21 disabled individuals representing groups throughout the state agreed unanimously to form TCCD and apply for membership in the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, a national umbrella organization of disabled groups and individuals.

Ms. Marilyn Golden, representing CBFL, was elected to the interim board of directors of TCCD, along with representatives of Texas Association of the Deaf, MIGHT (an Austin-based group), INSIGHT (an organization of San Antonio visually-impaired people,) and others.

An immediate priority of TCCD is the inclusion of viewpoints of handicapped people all over Texas via a statewide information network. Handicapped organizations in far flung areas will learn what their counterparts are doing in other Texas cities and counties to promote greater accessibility, compliance with disabled rights legislation, and other issues vital to the disabled community.

An Analysis
Report From A Participant

BY Marilyn Golden

I had committed myself to helping at the Leadership Conference, and I sure was hoping I wouldn't be bored. ("Maybe I can slip away to a movie Saturday afternoon...") But I found myself fascinated, inspired, impressed, and unbelievably involved.

The CBFL came through as an extremely effective organization, one that we can all be pround of. The new film (You Can Get What You Need) highlighting last fall's demonstration and the subsequent formation of the Pick-Me-Up Bus service immortalized our powerful efforts (humorously). But to hear of other groups and their achievements in Texas and other states was exciting too. We are not alone.

I formed a new understanding of a most important group, one that I know I won't forget: The American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. There are so many organizations these days, it makes your head spin, but this one is really different: it is of and by the CONSUMER, the HANDICAPPED PERSON HER/ HIMSELF, by US, and speaks for OUR interests (did you know it was ACCD behind the national demonstrations that got all the great new laws passed?). Frank Bowe, executive director of ACCD and a conference speaker, is a brilliant man who is kicking the right rear ends in Washington, D.C.(and working his own off in the process!) to further our cause. The various coalitions on national, state, and local (like ourselves) levels are what make his rear-kicking powerful, because they bring everyone together to thrash out differences and form a united opposition! That's why it is so important to reach out to all disabilities-- the blind, the deaf, C.P., etc. as well as different kinds of organizations.

We all had our energy whipped up by Eunice Fiorito who proclaims how you must know that you are worth a lot and YOU DESERVE THESE RIGHTS. And that people like herself will kick, scream, and scratch till we get' em.

PHOTO BY Bob Kafka

ACCD's Frank Bowe, who is deaf, signs and speaks on the subject of coalitions to delegates

We created a new dynamo: TCCD, or Texas Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. And the cooperation and speed (and yes, love) with which it was done was mind-blowing. In fact, the communication and cooperation in general was inspiring, with deaf, blind, and wheelers throwing words, signs, and braille around like so many birds in graceful formation. This was highlighted by a beautiful performance by Van and the Sign Company making music come alive for the deaf while others nimbly dance-signed under the blinds' hands so they too could enjoy. Many of us are now determined to learn to sign.

We are a rising tide (if that weekend was any clue) and those in the able-bodied world who continue to deny disabled people the same rights enjoyed by everyone else better look out!

Post Conference Evaluation

Please rate the following on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means bad, 5 means good, and 3 means uncertain. Circle your response.

	Bad				Good
Pre-Conference Package (invitations)	1	2	3	4	5
Registration Packet (training materials)	1	2	3	4	5
Accommodations (Hotel)	1	2	3	4	5
Special Assistance (aids, interpretors, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Introductions	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation by Bowe	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation by OCCD	1	2	3	4	5
Speech by Fiorito	1	2	3	4	5
CBFL film	1	2	3	4	5
Van and the Sign Company	1	2	3	4	5
Individual State Meetings	1	2	3	4	5
Conference Wrap-up	1	2	3	4	5
Plans made - outcome	1	2	3	4	5
Fellow participants	1	2	3	4	5
Sponsors (CBFL)	1	2	3	4	5
Idea for Conference	1	2	3	4	5
Press Coverage	1	2	3	4	5
Other(please List)					
_____	1	2	3	4	5
_____	1	2	3	4	5

Suggestions for future meetings or other projects of this sort:

_____

_____

_____
signature (optional)

LF/asm
2/13/78

POST CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Post conference evaluations are extremely helpful in determining which areas of a conference met participant needs and which did not. Of the forty conference attendees, twenty-one completed and returned post conference evaluation forms. A fifty percent return rate is well within the acceptable range limits to allow these findings to represent the general attitudes of conference participants.

From the evaluations it is possible to see how participants regarded specific facets of the conference program. Also included in this summary is a list of suggestions by participants that may be of assistance in planning future conferences.

The overall ratings of the eighteen categories were very favorable, with most falling between 3 and 5 on a continuum of 1 to 5. (1 being a bad and 5 a favorable rating) Sixty per cent of the ratings were five's, nineteen per cent were four's, eleven per cent were three's, three per cent were two's, and one per cent were one's.

The presentations of Dr.Frank Bowe and Eunice Fiorito of ACCD received top ratings by virtually everyone.

Although none of the categories consistently received ratings below "three", the presentation by OCCD and press coverage tended to be rated with less overall satisfaction.

LIST OF SUGGESTIONS

1. Teletype equipment for the deaf (2).
2. Have rentable electric wheelchair and batteries.
3. Portable commode.
4. More emphasis on media.
5. Let's have more meetings like this (3).
6. Need simple idea of what ACCD is from the beginning.
7. Need more diversified socio-economic and racial representation.
8. Need to teach good meeting behavior.
9. Rooms need to be closer to meeting rooms.

POST CONFERENCE FOLLOWUP

Following the conference, many letters of thanks and requests for information about the project were received. A few examples of these are reprinted on the following pages.

DEJEAN, DEJEAN AND DEJEAN
LAW OFFICES

ROBERT J. DE JEAN, SR.
ROBERT P. DE JEAN, JR.
BRODERICK C. DE JEAN

160 W. BELLEVUE ST.
GEE TOUSAN, LOUISIANA 70726
TELEPHONE: 912-3820
912-4224

March 6, 1978

RE: OFN: R-2-I

Dear Bob:

Please forgive the form, but this is the only way that I can find the time to contact my new friends that I met at the Houston "Coalition" Workshop. I hope that I will have time to drop you a more personal note in the near future.

Louisiana is just beginning to make advances in coalition efforts and otherwise securing the long over due rights for her handicapped citizens. All of us enjoyed and appreciated working with you and know that the future is brighter.

If I can be of any assistance at any time, please call and, if you are ever coming our way, I hope that you will let me show you some "Cajun" hospitality.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Broderick "Riki" DeJean

BCD/iw

Bob,
Thanx once again for all of the work "you and yours" put in the Coalition influence had long standing on the Louisiana.
Riki

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

OFFICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

500 River Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

EDWIN EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

February 20, 1978

Mr. Bob Gyrer, President
Coalition for Barrier Free Living
P.O. Box 20803
Houston, Texas 77025

Dear Bob:

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for providing me with an attendant so that I was able to get up every morning without any problems while I attended the workshop in Houston this past week-end. Let me take this opportunity to tell you that I was very impressed with the way that the meeting was put together. Also, I was very interested in what transpired. I believe that a coalition for the handicapped individuals is something that needs to be done. I know that in Louisiana there are too many handicapped clubs and organizations which have no communication between one another and this could be a means of communicating. Thus, as you can see, I am very much in favor of such a coalition being formed in Louisiana. As president of P.L.A.C.E., Baton Rouge chapter, I will be working very hard to help establish this coalition. As a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, I will also be pushing for the handicap to unite so as to be able to have some political pressure when it comes to getting programs adopted.

I have one regret about this past week-end and that was that it seems like you and I never had any time to sit down and talk with each other. I, personally, would have liked to have gotten to know you a little better. If for any reason you are in Baton Rouge, I wish that you would contact me. I would like to get to know you better and to return some of the favors that you did for me.

Please tell Steve that I am sorry that I broke the van; however, I seem to be jinxed when it comes to vans and Friday was just a day of hassle for me. I believe that the transportation for the workshop and the accomodations were extremely good. Lucky for me, I had very few hassles Sunday on my return trip.

If you have a newsletter or any type of information that might be of interest to me as a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor or as president of P.L.A.C.E., I wish that you would include me on your mailing list.

Thank you for all of your help, again.

Sincerely,

F.K. Vince, CRC
Senior Counselor
Vocational Rehabilitation

FKV:dd

DEJEAN, DEJEAN AND DEJEAN
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March 8, 1978

Dr. William Spencer, Director
Regional Rehabilitation & Training Unit No. 4
Texas Institute of Rehabilitation & Research
Texas Medical Center
1333 Moursund Avenue
Houston, Texas 77030

RE: OFN: R-2I

Dear Dr. Spencer:

Although it has been quite awhile (approximatly seven years) since my rehabilitation "experience" at TIRR, I still have a high respect and deep appreciation of all of the efforts which you and your staff make for those persons with spinal cord injuries.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Leadership Training Conference and Workshop in Houston and was not surprised to find that you were responsible in large part for getting the funding which was required.

The Conference was, in my opinion, a huge success in furthering the prospect of a coalition of handicapped individuals which is sorely needed in this era.

For these reasons, I extend my sincere thanks to you and anyone else who was responsible for this first step in attaining what I feel is a necessary step in the direction of attaining goals for all handicapped persons.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Riki

Broderick "Riki" DeJean

BCD/lav

Room 817, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. • (202) 785-4265
Washington, D.C. 20036

American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities Inc.

March 3, 1978

Dr. Joseph Fenton
Chief, R&T Centers
Rehabilitation Services Administration
DHEW, 330 C Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Joe:

RT-4 hosted 18-19 February a highly successful two-day workshop for disabled individuals and leading advocates on state coalition-building. The conference illustrates one of the great strengths of the R&T network -- it made available unique expertise and technical assistance for the benefit of disabled people in a highly relevant and cost-effective manner. For a total of $10,000, state delegations from Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana were able to acquire needed knowledge and skills, together with motivation and incentive, to generate strong state coalitions.

I would like to recommend to you, and to the Directors of the Centers, that RT-4's experience be considered as a model for this kind of work. ACCD regards it as highly responsive use of rehabilitation monies and urges rapid and broad replication.

Sincerely,

Frank G. Bowe, Ph.D.
Director

FGB:mm

TUFTS - NEW ENGLAND MEDICAL CENTER

An Association of the New England Medical Center Hospitals, Tufts University Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine and the Bingham Associates Fund and Program

171 Harrison Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 Area Code 617 - 956-5039
Box 1014

April 7, 1978

Lex Frieden
TIRR Annex
105 Drew
Houston, TX 77006

Dear Lex:

I am most pleased at the feedback I have heard regarding the RT-4 workshop for advocates on state coalition building. Please send me any written information on the RT project description or materials that were developed for the workshop. In looking through the RT-4 Annual Report, I didn't see a "$10,000" project that would relate to this, and I am curious how you were able to fund the project. It definitely sounds like something that other RTs should be replicating.

Thanks for your assistance. It was good to see you in Houston at the Independent Living meeting, and I look forward to the workshop.

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Fred

Fred Fay

FAF:rah

IN RETROSPECT

It appears now, three months after the conference, that this project was highly successful in several ways. First, it served as a constructive demonstration of a means for involving the rehabilitation establishment in consumerism. Also, it helped consumers learn more about organizing so that they may be more effectively involved in affairs and decision making which affect their lives. Finally, it provided a forum for handicapped people from many different places and with many different disabilities to meet and learn about each other, to become friends, and to plan on working with one another in the future. Both CBFL and RT 4 are proud of the roles they played in this project.

Judging by immediately observable effects, the project was extremely cost-effective. Ten thousand dollars and a couple of hundred man hours paid for a two-day meeting involving more than 50 handicapped people. One statewide coalition was formed, three others were planned, this report was produced, invaluable news coverage of the issue of disabled rights was generated, and many groups have become interested in replicating this project elsewhere in the United States.